

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Gilbert, Robbins, Taniguchi, and Chairperson Ning.

Absent: Commissioners Cook, Hazell, and Orpe.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, Senior Business Manager Minter, Park Services Supervisor Simoneau, Madrona Marsh Nature Center Manager Drake, and Facility Reservation Specialist Beahan.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved to grant Commissioners Cook, Hazell, and Orpe excused absences for the October 14, 2009 Commission meeting. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Taniguchi moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved for approval of the September 9, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Cook, Hazell, and Orpe).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

None.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7A. RECOMMENDATION FOR CYCLOCROSS EVENT AT ENTRADERO SUMP**

Senior Business Manager Minter introduced the item and requested that Commissioners concur with staff recommendation to approve a permit for a Cyclocross event at Entradero Sump on December 6, 2009. He noted that a letter of proposal from Brad House, the organizer for this year's event, as well as a Description of Cyclocross was included in agenda materials. He stated that 400 notices were sent out regarding this meeting and that supplemental correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared was available. He pointed out that the proposal is for November 15, 2009 but that there is a conflict with West Torrance Little League (WTLL) that has a lease for fall ball league every Sunday until Thanksgiving weekend.

Brad House, P.O. Box 10111, provided a power point presentation that described Cyclocross as a Bike Race with a twist, with some "carries" that give full body workout. He discussed the many benefits of the sport and the requirement for a minimum 2.5 kilometer course. He noted that Entradero Park has been used for many years for this annual event and stated that there would be minimal impact.

In response to Commissioner Gilbert's inquiries, Mr. House advised that riders are not allowed on the baseball diamonds, that it is a half-day event ending by 1:15 p.m., that carpooling is encouraged, that a notice is hand-walked to neighboring residences.

Commissioner Robbins related his observation that he observed minimal impact at the event two years ago and that adequate parking was available.

Commissioner Taniguchi inquired about previous conditions on the permit for the event and Facility Reservation Specialist Beahan stated that they are required to provide port-a-potties, pay typical picnic fees, and to carry \$1 million liability insurance. She noted that Park Rangers have always given a positive report about the event.

Linda Mele, Halison Street, stated that she supports the event but expressed concern about the loudspeaker and play-by-play style of announcements over the years.

Harold Marsh, Halison Street, voiced concern about traffic circulation and loudspeaker, adding that he has never been notified over the years about the event. He suggested that cars be required to enter on Halison Street and exit on Towers Street as per the lease agreement with WTLL.

Commissioner Robbins stated that the City cannot hold the same conditions on a public park as it does with WTLL.

Staff advised that specific conditions for approval can be set and clarification was provided that participants cannot park where WTLL parks because it is part of the racecourse.

Arthur Evans, Arvada Street, discussed the proposal to develop walking paths and address storm water issues at Entradero Sump. He stated that he sees no problem with the event except for parking which is always a problem on weekends.

Harry Stuver, Towers Street, expressed support for the event and noted that parking is not a big problem. He received assurance that staff would look into a bridge over drainage that he observed.

Mark Fujimori, Program Coordinator, Park Ranger Program, suggested that participants be directed to Towers Elementary School.

Responding to Commissioner Taniguchi's inquiry, Facility Reservation Specialist Beahan advised that Business License issues sound permits but that restrictions could be placed to limit the sound to announcements only.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved to approve the Cyclocross event at Entradero Sump on December 6, 2009 with traffic, noise, parking, and notification conditions as stipulated. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion.

Mr. House expressed concern about changing the date of the event from November 15, 2009 to December 6, 2009. He stated that WTLL could schedule a game as early as 2:00 p.m. and offered to accommodate WTLL's schedule in the future.

Facility Reservation Specialist Beahan pointed out that Administrative Services did not receive the proposal until September and that the requested date was not cleared by her office and WTLL.

Commissioner Robbins suggested that the Commission approve the event but not the date.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert made an amended motion to approve the Cyclocross event at Entradero Sump with traffic, noise, parking, and notification conditions as stipulated and on a date agreed to by the City, Cyclocross, and West Torrance Little League. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Cook, Hazell, Orpe).

## **7B. PARK RANGER ANNUAL REPORT**

Mark Fujimori, Program Coordinator, presented the Park Ranger Program 2008-2009 Annual Report in the material of record. He introduced Park Rangers Eddie Martinez, Anthony Navia, and Jose Nevretti. He stated that the Program began in 1995 and has grown considerably in the last six years, with currently 11 or 12 Park Rangers.

Commissioner Robbins commended Park Rangers for consistently improving their skills, capabilities, and professionalism over the years.

Senior Business Manager Minter pointed out that this year three Park Rangers have entered academies for law enforcement careers.

## **7C. PRESENTATION ON THE MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT INITIATIVE**

Recreation Services Manager Brunette introduced the item and welcomed Tracy Drake, Manager of the Madrona Marsh Preserve Nature Center.

Manager Drake provided background and introduced Dr. Craig Shuman, principal and co-founder of Strategic Earth Consulting.

Dr. Shuman provided a slide presentation on the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), a State law passed in 1999 that requires California's system of marine protected areas be redesigned to better protect marine life, habitats, and ecosystems.

He explained that the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative was established to help California achieve the goals of the MLPA. He presented MLPA requirements, a timeline and process for developing marine protected area proposals, and primary goals of the MLPA that include natural diversity and abundance of marine life; sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations; and improve recreational and study opportunities.

He discussed three different types of marine protected areas in California: State Marine Conservation Areas, State Marine Parks, and State Marine Reserves. He provided background on the Initiative created in 2004 that is a public-private partnership among the California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game, and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation. He stated that the State was divided into five study regions and described maps of three proposals submitted by work groups and currently under review. He noted similarities in the proposals and stated that a task force will recommend a proposal to Department of Fish and Game in December 2009.

Community Services Director Jones stated that this information is helpful in understanding what is happening locally and if Torrance will be impacted or not. He referred to an October 14, 2009 newspaper article discussing Redondo Beach's concerns about the Initiative.

**8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**8A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Has not met.

**8B. GRANTS COMMITTEE – GRANT PROGRAM**

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the first series of interviews with non-profit agencies took place on October 13, 2009 and will continue on November 3, 2009, with deliberations scheduled for November 4, 2009.

**8C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the Open Space Committee met on October 14, 2009 to discuss the dog court proposal and will meet again on November 18, 2009.

**8D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Has not met.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**9A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for September 2009 was included in agenda packets.

**9B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Supervisor Simoneau noted that the Park Services Division Report for September 2009 was included in agenda materials. He reported that Park Services added decomposed granite to jogging paths at some parks, refurbished the gazebo at Osage Park, installed the bulkhead at Benstead Plunge, and assisted with tree dedications.

**9C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for September 2009 was included in agenda packets, adding that corrected copies of the September Farmers' Market report would be available at the next Commission meeting.

**10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2**

**10A.** Youth Council members Brad Sakaguchi from West High School and Brendon Villalobos from Bishop Montgomery High School introduced themselves.

**10B.** Commissioner Gilbert encouraged fellow Commissioners to join Commissioner Robbins and herself in judging pumpkins at Wilson Park on Halloween.

**10C.** Chairperson Ning discussed his recent trip to Japan and near misses with the typhoon.

**10D.** Community Services Director Jones provided information regarding an October 13, 2009 public meeting to discuss the Bishop Montgomery sump project, with a follow-up meeting scheduled for November 18, 2009. He stated that there would also be a November 4, 2009 community meeting to discuss the Ocean sump. He noted the areas are unique in that they are not only involved in sustaining the water table but also have the opportunity to create open space opportunities.

**10E.** Recreation Services Manager Brunette introduced Senior Recreation Supervisor McClelland.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:24 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Ning so ordered.

Approved as Submitted November 18, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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